THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has sanctioned a food park at Kuppam, District Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh. Two more proposals have been received for financial assistance for setting up of Food Parks in Andhra Pradesh (East Godavari District). The proposal have been scrutinized and required supporting information has been called for which is awaited.

Functioning of Food Testing Laboratories in the Country

563. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food testing laboratories functioning at in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of Food Analysts employed with the Ministry;

(c) the food manufacturing items which are exclusively reserved for the small scale industries (SSIs); and

(d) whether current standards of food safety are identical for the items reserved for the SSIs and those which are not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) A number of food testing laboratories are functioning in Public and Private sector in the country. There number is estimated to be about 280. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) does not setup food testing laboratories on its own and therefore, has not employed Food Analysts. Since MFPI provides financial assistance for setting up/up-gradation of food testing laboratories, it has assisted 29 organizations, so far, under its Plan Scheme. A statement indicating State-wise number of food testing laboratories assisted by MFPI is annexed. *(See* below)

(c) Food manufacturing items which are exclusively reserved for the small scale industries (SSIs) are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Product
1.	Pickles & Chutneys
2.	Bread
3.	Pastry
4.	Hard boiled Sugar Candy
5.	Rapeseed Oil (except Solvent extracted)
6.	Mustard Oil (except Solvent extracted)
7.	Sesame Oil (except Solvent extracted)
8.	Ground nut oil (except Solvent extracted)
9.	Ground and processed Spice other than spice oil and Oleo resin spices.

(d) The current standards of food safety are uniformly applicable to all the food products, irrespective of whether they are reserved for exclusive manufacture in SSI sector or not.

Statement

State-wise number of food testing laboratories assisted by MFPI

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Food Testing Laboratories
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3
2.	Assam	1
3.	Delhi	4
4.	Gujarat	2
5.	Haryana	1
6.	Himachal Pradesh	-
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
8.	Jharkhand	1
9.	Karnataka	2
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1
11.	Maharashtra	1
12.	Punjab	2
13.	Tamil Nadu	2
14.	Uttar Pradesh	4
15.	Uttaranchal	1
16.	West Bengal	3
	TOTAL:	29